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Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" Is it not the duty of the Excise officer to see that the revenue does not fall ? "

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" It is the duty of the Excise Department to see that revenue does not fall owing to want of detection of crimes or combination among bidders. It is not the duty of the department to see that drink is increased. The Government of India have issued definite orders to that effect."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" With regard to this Government order, may I know why the Government have not instructed their Health Officers to preach on the evil effects of any use of alcohol ? "

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" I am afraid the hon. Member did not hear the answer I gave to Mr. Madhavan Nayar. I said that that matter was under the consideration of the Government and that orders would issue soon."

Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" May I know if there is any proposal that the Excise Department should preach against drink ? "

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" There is no such proposal at present."

Alleged negligent treatment of one Angamma in the Government Maternity Hospital.

*1529 Q.—Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA : Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether one lady by name Angamma was admitted to the Government Maternity Hospital at 8 a.m. on 11th December 1927 with labour pains ;

(b) whether she was operated at 12 noon on the same date by the assistant of the hospital ;

(c) whether she died the same day ;

(d) whether on two previous occasions she had been successfully operated for the removal of the child by the Superintendent ;

(e) why she was not operated this time by the Superintendent or the Assistant Superintendent ;

(f) whether it is a fact that the Superintendent when informed of the arrival of this case sent word that he was busy and that the particular assistant must operate on her ;

(g) whether when after an hour or so he was informed that the assistant was not in the hospital, he wrote back saying that that particular assistant should be sent for and that he should do the operation ;

(h) what the delay involved was in all this correspondence ;

(i) whether it is a fact that the Superintendent is provided with quarters so that he might attend to all serious cases ; and

(j) if so, why he did not personally look into this case ?

A.—(a) A patient named Angamma was admitted into the hospital at 8-45 a.m. on 11th December 1927.

(b) She was operated on the same day at 11-25 a.m. by the Assistant Professor of Midwifery.

(c) & (d) Yes.

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(*e*), (*f*), (*g*) & (*h*) The information asked for is not available as the Superintendent and the Assistant Superintendent who were then on duty are not in India at present.

(*i*) Yes.

(*j*) Please see the answer to clauses (*e*) *to* (*h*).

Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA :—" May I know from the hon. the Minister for Public Health why there was such inordinate delay in operating a lady with labour pains who was admitted at 8-45 a.m. in an institution where there are half a dozen medical men, such as the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent, on the spot ? "

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" Answer is given so far as information can be gathered. But the unfortunate trouble is my hon. Friend asks questions one year after the incident. We cannot get all the information now."

Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA :—" It is an institution where a record is kept for everything done. . . . "

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The hon. Member is giving information."

Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA :—" I am asking, Sir, whether it is not possible to refer to these records if the hon. Minister has a mind to do so."

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" All the information that can be gathered from the records has been obtained and put on the paper."

Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA :—" May I know from the hon. the Minister for Public Health what the qualifications of the Assistant are and why the lady was not operated by the Superintendent or the Assistant Superintendent, who are experts, when it is a case of opening up the womb and pulling out the child through the abdomen and not through the natural passage and whether she was not operated successfully twice before by the Superintendent ? "

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The hon. Member is furnishing very valuable information. (Laughter.)

Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA :—" It is a serious question affecting the public. I want to know whether it is open to the Assistant Professor of Midwifery to operate a poor woman and kill her.

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" Whether it is a poor woman or a rich woman, the duty of the officers of the department is the same. As I said, it is not possible to answer those questions one year after the incident. Both the Superintendent and the Assistant Superintendent are on leave in England. There is no record in the hospital which will give the required information. The information has to be obtained from the officers themselves.

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" May I know whether the Government have written to those officers asking for their explanations for their default in this case, and if not, why they have not written to them to explain ? "

The hon. Mr. S MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" Because the matter is brought to the notice of the Government one year later. Moreover, those officers are in England. It will be six months before we get replies from them."

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Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" It takes only a month to get a reply."

The hon. Mr S MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" The Superintendent and the Assistant Superintendent will not remember this case. They cannot give answers to our questions without referring to the records. They may return to India before our letter reaches them."

Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA :—" I made a reference to this point at the time of the discussion of the last year's budget. The hon. the Finance Member took me to task for not giving due notice of the matter to the hon. Member of Government concerned . . ."

* The hon the PRESIDENT :—" The hon. Member is again furnishing information."

Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA :—" Reference was made to this matter in this House by me."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The hon. Member will have to take some other opportunity to refer to that matter."

Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA :—" May I ask what the qualifications of the Assistant Professor of Midwifery are for operating that lady and for killing her ? "

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" No qualifications are necessary for killing a woman. I want notice if the hon. Member wants information about the qualifications of an officer for conducting successful operations."

Alleged grievances of lepers in the Tirumani Leper Settlement.

11–15 a.m. * 1530 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA : Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether Government have received complaints about the treatment of lepers in the Tirumani settlement as to diet, exercise and discipline within the last one year ; and

(b) what steps have been taken to enquire into and redress their alleged grievances ?

A.—(a) No.

(b) The question does not arise.

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" May I know whether the Government during the Ministership of Mr. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar did not receive complaints about the treatment of lepers ? "

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" The answer given in clause (a) is ' No '."

Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" May I know from the hon. the Minister what arrangements have been made to prevent such complaints ? "

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" I have not heard any complaints and the question does not arise."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" May I know if the hon. the Minister is aware that probably owing to the bad treatment of these lepers in Tirumani the City of Madras is infested with a number of lepers, especially in the approaches to the buses and trams ? "